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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations
FROM : Foreign Documents Branch
SUBJECT: FDB Monthly Progress Report

DATE: 5 November 1948

I. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

a. EUCOM Documents Project

The activity report of the FDB Screening Team was completed this month and forwarded to OO. Action in implementation of recommendations in the report has been initiated.

b.

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c. Survey of Non-Governmental Agencies

CIA Library representatives are currently visiting selected libraries in the Chicago and Baltimore areas to survey the intelligence potential of these repositories. These representatives have been briefed by FDB.

d. Korea Document Project

Upon the return of the State Department Screening Team to Washington, arrangements were made to furnish FDB with copies of microfilms of documents. The activity report of this team is available in branch files.

e. Coordination of Translation Activities

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Additional abstract cards were received from the Air Force Project [redacted]
Additional translations of Russian language documents were received by FDB from the Navy Research Laboratory.

f. "Third Country" Project

Replies from State Department field representatives are still being received in Washington in conjunction with the FDB project for surveying third countries to ascertain the existence and availability of USSR publications in countries other than the USSR. [redacted] procurement

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officer recently forwarded listings of USSR publications available [] offered microfilm services for significant items if requested by FDB.

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II. Accomplishments

a. Library of Congress Catalogue Cards

Approximately 5,500 preliminary catalogue cards of foreign language books received by the Library of Congress were forwarded to FDB during October. Nearly 12,500 titles covering seventeen languages have already been received from the Library of Congress.

b. Displaced Person Publications

Pursuant to an FDB request, CAD, Department of the Army, has requested the European Command to forward directly to CIA all DP publications in the American, British and French zones. The initial shipment from the American zone has already arrived. EUCOM has indicated that effort will be made to procure similar publications from other zones.

c. Non-Subscription Foreign Language Publications

A confidential agreement was effected with the Department of State to forward to FDB foreign language publications received by State from other than regular subscription channels. At FDB this material will be evaluated and recommendations made for its exploitation. ✓

d. German Military Documents Section

Increased demand by the theatre for the return of selected captured German documents for theatre use has necessitated the following arrangements: ✓

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- (1) Future lists of documents requested by EUCOM will be forwarded to FDB by GMDS before shipment is made.
- (2) Those documents considered as being of interest to FDB will be photostated or microfilmed by GMDS for the theatre with the original documents remaining in Washington.

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- e. [] Project

FDB comments on the Air Force [] Project have been incorporated in a memorandum to the AD/00. On 20 October discussions were held with [] of ICAPS and Colonel Stark, Air Force, further clarifying CIA's comments on the [] Project. Air Force plans to rewrite the project delimiting it considerably in line with comments made by CIA. Air Force will further prepare requirements on FDB for information from current Soviet publications.

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- f. Exploitation of Foreign Language Periodicals

FDB proposals to discontinue the publication of Periodical Abstracts (General) and in its place substitute a series of separate information reports representing extracts of non-technical articles has as yet to receive final approval.

- g. Blueprints, Profiles - USSR Railways

At the instigation of FDB, the AD/00 on 13 October forwarded a recommendation to AD/ORE with regard to ORE assessment for intelligence value of blueprints and profiles of USSR railroads now in the GMDS of AGO. As yet no affirmative action has been taken.

- h. Suspension of Publication - Periodical Abstracts

Due to consideration currently being given to reclassifying material from Russian language publications, the Periodical Abstracts and Bibliographies have been temporarily suspended. FDB Press Extracts have been reclassified "Secret".

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i. Delineation of Responsibility for Foreign Language Material

Discussions have been held with CIA Library in an endeavor to work out a delineation of responsibility in handling foreign language material. A memorandum on this subject is now being prepared by FDB. *

j. West Coast Trip

On 1 October 1948 the Deputy Chief, FDB, returned to Washington and a report on his trip to the West Coast was forwarded to AD/OO. A list of contacts made was forwarded to OO/C and a list of possible applicants to the Chief, Personnel Branch, A&M.

III. Projects Contemplated or Recommended

a. Transliteration - Foreign Personal Names

25X1A The problems of transliteration and standardization of the spelling of foreign personal names was outlined in a memorandum by AD/OO 25 October. Preliminary discussions have been held [] during which the possibility of extending the BGN system to personal names and other proposals have been mentioned. *

b. Discussions with ICAPS - Translation Service

Discussions have been held with representatives of ICAPS concerning an agenda for an IAC ad hoc committee which will consider a centralized translation service. Following these discussions a memorandum was forwarded to ICAPS through the AD/OO outlining FDB's position in relation to the discussions. *

c. Proposed Publications of Accession Lists by FDB

Contingent upon further discussions with OCD, the FDB proposal to publish an accession publication for foreign language books of intelligence value has as yet to receive final concurrence.

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J. J. BAGNALL

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